Sunday April 15, 2018
The Holiness of God Series
Part 2 : Holy, Holy, Holy

Quick Review
Last Sunday, In Part-1: Holy God - we introduced the holy nature of God,
We discussed about : The Revelation Of A Holy God
We said that God wants His Nature Reproduced In Us
We defined Holiness - What it is. God's absolute purity and sinlessness.
We also mentioned that Holiness is God's Glory And Beauty
We saw briefly that God is immeasurably holy - glorious in holiness.
And then in closing we discussed about The Holiness And Goodness of God.

One of our goals in this series is for us to receive a revelation of the holiness of God so that we live out of that - knowing the God we worship is a holy God.

TODAY

Everything about God is holy. He is thrice holy. Holy to the third degree. His name is holy. He speaks in His holiness. He dwells in holiness. Therefore He must be hallowed.

The Holy One

Isaiah 43:15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King."

Isaiah 47:4 As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.

In many places in Scripture God is referred to as the Holy One, and the Holy One of Israel. The Lord is holy. He is the only one who is holy by nature, holy in essence, holy in who He is.

Thrice Holy

It is interesting in Scripture that both Isaiah in the Old Testament and John in the New Testament, in their visions of the Throne Room, heard the worship of the angelic beings and heavenly creatures, calling "holy, holy, holy".

Isaiah 6:1-8
1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

Revelation 4:8
The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

The song of the seraphim and the heavenly creatures emphasize the holiness of God. This is the tri-sagion, Greek for "Thrice Holy". Generally speaking, something is repeated, for emphasis. The one aspect of God that is emphasized is His holiness. We do not see any other aspect of God's nature - love, goodness, power, etc. - emphasized in this manner. He is thrice holy. Holy to the third degree. The term 'third degree' is used to express something that is taken to the farthest extent possible, highest possible level, taken to the extreme and nothing beyond this.

This is very important. The one aspect of God's nature and character that is emphasized and highlighted in the Throne Room is His holiness. There is an awesome recognition of His holiness, His absolute purity. His absolute sinlessness by everyone and everything there.

His Holy Name

Psalm 103:1
Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Psalm 105:3
Glory (Hebrew 'halal'=to be dear, to shine, to boast, to rave) **in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!**

Matthew 6:9
In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed (Greek 'hagiazo'=to be held holy, pure, consecrated), **be Your name.**

His name is holy. His name is to be hallowed. Part of our worship is to give thanks, to bless, to glory, to make our boast and to exalt and magnify His holy name. We hold it with reverence and honor on our lips. We speak it with faith and confidence knowing the greatness that is in that name.

In Mary's song of praise, she declares *"For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name."* (Luke 1:49)

God had commanded His people "*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain*" (Exodus 20:7). But yet there were times when God's people profaned His holy name.

Ezekiel 36:20-23
20 When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned (Hebrew 'chalal') **My holy name—when they said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.'**
21 But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.
22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.
23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.

Ezekiel 39:7,25
7 So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.
25 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name—

In the Old Testament, the people profaned (wounded) the holy name of the Lord by not living the way He had instructed them to live. They wandered out of the land He had given them and lived as they wished. This brought dishonor to the name of the Lord. When people profaned His holy name, God did not take this lightly. God stands by His holy name and demonstrates His power for the honor of His name. He is "jealous" for His holy name.

The Hebrew word for 'profaned' is '*chalal*' which means 'wounded, pierced through'. This is the same word used in Isaiah 53:3 taking about Jesus being wounded for our transgressions.

He chooses to dwell where His holy name is hallowed and revered (Ezekiel 43:7).

Where His holy name is hallowed, praised, blessed and worshipped, He is welcomed. He comes with power and glory.

In the New Testament the Lord Jesus gives us His name teaches us that where His name is mentioned He is there (Matthew 18:20).

How do we regard God's name? Do we see His name as Holy?

God Has Spoken In His Holiness

Psalm 60:6

God has spoken in His holiness: "I will rejoice; I will divide Shechem And measure out the Valley of Succoth.

Psalm 108:7 God has spoken in His holiness:....

When God speaks we must recognize that it is the Holy One speaking. God speaks in His holiness. His words are holy (Jeremiah 23:9). His words are pure. His words are truth. His words are perfect. The Holy One has spoken. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). His word is truth (John 17:17). God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19).

How do we regard God's Word? Do we see His Word as Holy?

Holy Angels

Matthew 25:31
"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

God is surrounded by a host of angels and heavenly beings. These are called holy ones and holy angels. God has made them holy and capable of standing in His presence.

As a side note we can state this that holiness will attract the holy angels of God.

Holiness Adorns Your House

Psalm 93:5 Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.

Everything about God and where God is, is holy. We see in many of the Psalms that everything about where God dwells is called holy:

God's holy hill, holy mountain (Psalm 2:6; Psalm 3:4)
God's holy temple, holy place, holy sanctuary (Psalm 11:4; Habakkuk 2:20)
God's holy throne (Psalm 47:8)
God's holy habitation (Zechariah 2:13)

When we consider the Tabernacle that God instructed Moses to build, everything used in the Tabernacle for the service of God had to be holy. There were holy garments (Exodus 28:2,4) for the priest to minister to the Lord in the Tabernacle. There was the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:33-34). There was the holy anointing oil (Exodus 30:25) with which all the utensils were anointed and consecrated for use in the Tabernacle. There was the holy incense (Exodus 30:37).

In the New Testament the individual believer, the community of believers as well as the Body of Christ are called the Temple of God. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"* (1 Corinthians 6:19). *"in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit"* (Ephesians 2:21-22). Therefore everything about us must be holy, consecrated and dedicated to our holy God.

Do we see God's house, both ourselves, the local church community and the Body of Christ as holy unto God?

I Must Be Regarded As Holy

Leviticus 10:3
And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.

Hebrews 12:28-29
28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
29 For our God is a consuming fire.

We have considered all of these things to impress upon our hearts, that we must hold God with holy reverence in our hearts. Holding God with reverence and godly fear is not just an Old Testament truth. The New Testament in Hebrews 12 also teaches us that we must serve God with reverence and godly fear.

Even the Lord Jesus in His prayer called the Father Holy. *"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."* (John 17:11)

Atonement Makes Us Holy

So how do we approach such a holy God, God who is most holy? Man at his best is unfit to come anywhere near such a holy God. God dwells "*in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see,..*" (1 Timothy 6:16). Isaiah 64:6 states *"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away."*

We learn something interesting from the Old Testament. When someone or something became unclean, the priest made atonement, and because of the atonement, what was unclean became clean.

Leviticus 14:19-20
19 "Then the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make atonement for him who is to be cleansed *(Hebrew 'taher')* **from his uncleanness. Afterward he shall kill the burnt offering.**
20 And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean *(Hebrew 'taher')***.**

The Hebrew word '*taher*' means 'to be bright'; by implication it meant to be clean, pure, physically sound, clear, unadulterated, uncontaminated, morally innocent or holy, to cleanse, purge, purify.

The Hebrew word for 'atonement' is '*kaphar*' which literally means to cover and figuratively means to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel, to appease, make atonement, cleanse, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, to pitch, purge away, put off, reconcile or to make reconciliation.

Under the Levitical law, anyone who had become unclean (e.g. a leper, etc.) once healed was declared clean after atonement was made for that person. It was the atonement that came as a result of the sin offering that made the person clean or holy.

In the New Testament we clearly understand that it is the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross and His completed work that cleanses us, makes us holy and gives us access into the very presence of the Most Holy One.

Romans 5:10-11
10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The word "reconciliation" is translated "atonement" in the KJV.

His Blood, His Righteousness - Our Access Into His Holiness

God is so intensely holy and yet He provided the atonement that makes us clean. He then gives us His righteousness by which we are able to enter His most holy presence. While there are several New Testament Scriptures that teach us about our standing before God and access into His presence we reflect on just these two:

Hebrews 10:19-22
19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We have boldness to enter the holy presence of God through the blood of Jesus and through a way He has prepared for us. The blood of Christ has done for us everything the High Priest in the Old Testament had to do ceremonially to enter into the Most Holy Place, and much more. The blood of Christ has cleansed our conscience from all evil and guilt and has provided us complete cleansing. We are not required to wash our bodies with clean water - rather the cleansing is already done for us by the blood. So all we do now to enter the presence of God who is Thrice Holy, is come with boldness (confidence), with a sincere (true) heart and with faith because of the blood of Jesus Christ whom we believe in.

2 Corinthians 5:21
For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

We have been made the righteousness of God. Righteousness means to be right and just. God is righteous and He has given us His righteousness. He has given us His quality of being right and just. He gave this to us as a free gift because of the work the Lord Jesus completed for us on the Cross. It means we are right in God's eyes. In the Greek "righteousness" and "justification" come from the same root word and both essentially mean to be made right, free from all guilt, pronounced righteous, to acquitted. The righteous that He has given to us makes us right in His eyes and gives us right standing with Him. Hence, we enter His holy presence based on His righteousness which is ours.

Prayer & Ministry Time

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday April 15, 2018
The Holiness of God Series
Part 2 : Holy, Holy, Holy

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture passages: *Revelation 4:8;Ezekiel 36:20-23;Leviticus 10:3;Hebrews 12:28-29*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Try to describe (paint a verbal picture) the The Throne Room filled with a recognition of the holiness of God. If you find this too abstract, go on to the next question.

2, What are some ways believers would/could 'profane' His holy name?

3, God said "I must be regarded as holy". How do we do this in both spiritual and mundane activities we engage in?

4, Discuss how the atonement, the blood and His righteousness gives us freedom and confidence to enter the presence of a holy God.

Pray for each other for a greater revelation of God's holiness.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.